

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 AID-05

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P R 181004Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5473

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 18697

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FAO, AGR, UNGA

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

REF: STATE 274665; B. MOSCOW 18071

1. SUMMARY. POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON NESTORENKO ON DECEMBER 17 TO URGE SOVIET PARTICIPATION WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. NESTORENKO DENIED THAT NEGATIVE DECISION ON THIS QUESTION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY USSR AND INDICATED STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT SOVIETS WOULD JOIN COUNCIL. HE OUTLINED PROBLEMS SOVIETS FACED ON THIS QUESTION AND WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS GENERALLY, BUT DID NOT MENTION CHILE PARTICIPATION AS AN OBSTACLE IN THIS CASE. HE ASKED WHAT THE U.S. POSITION WOULD BE ON THE FUND TO AID THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES (MSAS). ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH CURRENT U.S. THINKING ON MSA QUESTION TO CONVEY TO NESTORENKO. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL COUNSELOR MADE POINTS IN REF A, PARA 3. HE STRESSED THAT WE ARE DISAPPOINTED AT THE INITIAL NEGATIVE

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SOVIET REACTION TO JOINING THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND URGED

RECONSIDERATION OF THE SOVIET POSITION ON THIS QUESTION. NESTORENKO OBJECTED TO THE WORD "RECONSIDERATION," SAYING THIS WAS NOT ACCURATE. THE SOVIETS HAD NOT IN ANY SENSE REJECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNCIL, HE SAID. WHEN APPROACHED ON THIS QUESTION SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES HAD ONLY INDICATED THEY WOULD "THINK IT OVER." THIS MATTER WAS, IN FACT, CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY HIGHER AUTHORITY AND WOULD BE DECIDED VERY SHORTLY. HE EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE POSITIVE. "WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN YOUR VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT, AS STATED BY MR. MATLOCK". (REF B), NESTORENKO SAID. (WITHOUT SAYING SO, NESTORENKO IMPLIED THAT HIS DIVISION WAS IN FAVOR OF SOVIET PARTICIPATION AND HAD RECOMMENDED THIS TO THE MINISTRY.)

3. BOTH AT ROME AS WELL AS IN NEW YORK THE SOVIETS HAD ATTEMPTED TO LEARN THE MECHANISM OF THE COUNCIL, NESTORENKO CONTINUED. SUCH INFORMATION WAS NEEDED BEFORE THE USSR COULD COMMIT ITSELF TO BECOMING A MEMBER. NESTORENKO SAID THAT THE USSR DOES NOT INTEND TO BE LEFT OUT IN DISCUSSION OF ANY MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEM, BUT THERE ARE MANY COMPLICATING FACTORS FOR IT IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE.

4. THE QUESTION OF FOOD IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE USSR, HE SAID. THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN A MAJOR BUYER OF GRAIN FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS BECAUSE OF THE NATURAL DISASTERS SUFFERED BY SOVIET AGRICULTURE, PARTICULARLY THE UNPRECEDENTED DROUGHT IN 1972. THIS AFFECTED MOSCOW'S CAPACITY TO HELP OTHERS, NESTORENKO POINTED OUT.

5. IN ADDITION, MOSCOW HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE CONCEPT OF MULTILATERAL FOOD AID UNDER UN SPONSORSHIP. MOSCOW'S TRADITIONAL PHILOSOPHY HAD BEEN TO HELP OTHER NATIONS THROUGH DIRECT BILATERAL CONTRIBUTIONS. THE MULTILATERAL WAY HAS NOT BEEN THE SOVIET WAY, HE SAID. THE USSR IS ALSO NOT A MEMBER OF FAO, HE SAID. THIS WAS NOT DUE TO OPPOSITION TO THE WORK OF THE FAO PER SE, BUT RATHER RESULTED FROM THE FACT THAT THE FAO WAS THE LAST OF THE UN SUBORDINATE BODIES IN WHICH THE USSR HAD INTENDED TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER, BY THE TIME THE SOVIETS WERE READY TO JOIN THE ORGANIZATION, MOSCOW REALIZED THAT MANY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THIS

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TYPE WERE NOT REALLY VIABLE OR USEFUL, "SO WE WAITED," HE SAID, "AND WE ARE STILL WAITING."

6. TOO MUCH EFFORT AND MONEY HAVE BEEN WASTED ON THE VARIOUS COMPONENT BODIES OF THE UN, NESTORENKO CHARGED. LARGE BATTALIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS ARE SUPPORTED BY SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AND THESE PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE BODIES IN WHICH THEY SERVE. THE MAIN

FUNCTION OF SOME OF THESE UN BODIES, HE SAID, WAS TO "FEED THE BARONS"--I.E. SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS IN HIGH STYLE. THE FAO IN THIS CONTEXT IS NO WORSE THAN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, NESTORENKO SAID, BUT IT IS NOT BETTER EITHER.

7. FOR SOME YEARS THE SOVIETS HAVE BELIEVED, NESTORENKO SAID, THAT SERIOUS EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO RATIONALIZE THE VARIOUS BODIES OF THE UN. WITHIN THE PAST TWO YEARS HE NOTED US REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BECOME EQUALLY SEIZED WITH THIS PROBLEM. HE HOPED THAT THE USSR AND THE U.S. COULD WORK TOGETHER IN HANDLING THIS MATTER IN THE FUTURE.

8. NESTORENKO THEN ASKED OUR VIEW REGARDING PROPOSED FUND FOR THE MOST SERIOUS AFFECTED COUNTRIES (MSA). DURING THE SIXTH UN SPECIAL SESSION LAST SPRING, HE SAID, THE U.S. POSITION HAD BEEN THAT IT WAS ALREADY HELPING THE MSAS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. THEN AT THE JULY ECOSOC MEETING THE U.S. SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTH SESSION AND THAT IT WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO AN MSA FUND. NESTORENKO QUOTED AMBASSADOR SCALI AS SAYING ON A LATER OCCASION THAT THE U.S. WOULD PARTICIPATE IF ASKED. IT WAS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE U.S. VIEWED THIS AS A COMMITMENT. ON A RELATED POINT, HE ASKED WHAT PARTICIPATION IN THE FUND WOULD MEAN--WHETHER IT WOULD BE A MULTILATERAL POOL OR WHETHER IT COULD INCLUDE SOME BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. POLITICAL COUNSELOR TOLD NESTORENKO THAT WE WOULD ASK FOR DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON THIS QUESTION.

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 AID-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5474

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 18697

9. NESTORENKO WELCOMED OUR DEMARCHE ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. HE STRONGLY ENDORSED MORE ACTIVE CONSULTATIONS IN MOSCOW ON UN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MATTERS. UNGA MEETS ONLY THREE MONTHS OF THE YEAR, HE SAID, BUT THESE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS GO ON ALL THE TIME. SUCH CONTACTS SHOULD BE BOTH AT HIS OWN DIVISION CHIEF LEVEL AND AT THE OTHER WORKING LEVELS AS WELL. HE SAID ALL OFFICERS OF HIS DIVISION WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE TO SEE US ON ANY PROBLEMS WE MIGHT CARE TO RAISE. IN ADDITION TO DEALING WITH SPECIFIC ISSUES THEMSELVES, BROADER EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION HERE IN MOSCOW CAN ADD TO THE CLIMATE OF IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COULD CONCEIVABLY RESULT IN NEW AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL IDEAS FOR DEALING WITH COMMON PROBLEMS.

10. NESTORENKO ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE FAVORABLE EVOLUTION OF BILATERAL DEALINGS ON UN MATTERS BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR. HE RECALLED THAT WHEN HE FIRST SERVED IN NEW YORK, THE US AND USSR DELEGATIONS SAT SIDE BY SIDE BUT FACED IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS, NEVER SPEAKING. IN CONTRAST, TODAY IT IS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS ALL QUESTIONS FRANKLY AND PRODUCTIVELY AND THERE
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ARE MORE AND MORE TOPICS AND PROBLEMS ON WHICH WE CAN COOPERATE CLOSELY.

11. NESTORENKO NEVER MENTIONED CHILEAN PARTICIPATION AS A PROBLEM AND WE SAW NO REASON TO RAISE THE QUESTION. HIS REFERENCE TO CLOSER CONSULTATIONS IS AT LEAST THE THIRD OCCASION IN RECENT WEEKS WHEN A RESPONSIBLE AND SENIOR OFFICIAL DEALING WITH UN MATTERS HAS STRONGLY ENDORSED THIS VIEW.
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